

OR ACTION

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AIRGRAM

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NO.

HANDLING INDICATOR

TO : Department of State

INFO : USCINCSO FOR POLAD, Amembassies TEGUCIGALPA, SAN SALVADOR, MANAGUA, SAN JOSE, DOD

RECEIVED

MAR 16 12 09 PM 1968

FROM : Amembassy GUATEMALA

ANALYSIS BRANDATE:

March 16, 1968

SUBJECT : Weekly Internal Security Report: March 8-14, 1968

REF :

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
BUREAU OF
INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS
MAR 19 1968

1. The week was only moderately active but a fairly high level of political violence still prevails and the Government extended the State of Alert for 30 more days (GUATEMALA 3737).
2. An incident of prime concern for the US was the bombing on March 12th of the Marine Security Guard house. The bomb was thrown over the wall and onto the driveway where it exploded, breaking a number of windows but causing no structural damage or injuries. Information as to who was responsible is lacking (GUATEMALA 3685).
3. Another significant incident was the burning, presumably by terrorists, of several installations of the Guatemalan customs service on March 13th (see enclosure for details). Damage has been estimated at approximately Q40,000.
4. The security forces continue to be the object of attack. Mauricio ROSSAL Paz, who is now a school teacher but who was identified in the press as a former FAR member and now a confidential agent for the security forces, was shot and killed on March 8th, and the bodyguard of the Chief of Fourth Corps of the National Police was killed March 12th (see enclosure for details).
5. The security forces reported one major success: the capture of Jose Ignacio LOPEZ Ruiz, who confessed in a taped statement that he was a member of a FAR explosives cell, and had participated in the March 7th rocket attack on the military installation at Los Cipresales.

Enclosure: List of Incidents

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/NE

REVIEWED BY *Ery* DATE *Oct 1961*

PORTIONS DENIED AS INDICATED

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FORM 4-62 DS-323

Dated by:

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Clearances:

POL:JWilson (in draft)

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6. There was another asylum case during the week. Three persons, believed by the authorities to be members of the FAR, have been granted asylum in the Mexican Embassy. The Mexican Ambassador has requested a safe conduct for all three and the GOG is studying the case (see enclosure for details).

7. There were assorted other miscellaneous bombs, shootings, and kidnappings not worth special note and 5 assassinated bodies were located.

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[Signature]

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LIST OF INCIDENTS

- March 0/A 7 - Three persons granted asylum in Mexican Embassy here. They are identified as Samuel TORÓN Gonzalez, Ricardo Ismael VALLECILLO Pérez and Amanda Morales, all FAR members according to authorities. Mexican Ambassador has requested safe conduct and Minister of Foreign Affairs studying case.
- 8 - Jorge EQUIZABAL Menéndez, paymaster for Velásquez transport line, robbed and kidnapped in Izabal, according to press.
- 8 - Mauricio Rossal Paz, school teacher and, according to press, former guerrilla and confidential agent of security forces, shot and killed in zone 1 by unknown persons in car.
- 9 - Juan L. Cruz and Margarite Quimber wounded when they were shot from passing car in zone 19.
- 11 - Zone 1 house of Fahima SAADALLAH Francis shot up. No injuries. She had been threatened before.
- 12 - One policeman killed and another badly wounded as result of machine gun attack on their car from passing truck in zone 3. Dead policeman identified in press as bodyguard of Chief of 4th Corps of national police. While fleeing scene attackers continued shooting and wounded Army captain who was in another car [REDACTED] onto
- 12 - Bomb thrown over wall at 2130 hours/driveway of Marine house in zone 9, exploded breaking number of windows but causing no injuries. Motive still unknown.
- 12 - Bomb exploded at zone 5 house of Trinidad Palomo causing no injuries.
- 12 - Attempt by unknown persons to kidnap Juan Jose ARAJON Barillas and Carlos Enrique ESTRADA as they left Pavón jail near capital failed. They had been arrested April 29, 1967, for possessing subversive literature.
- 13 - Police release taped confession of leader of FAR explosives cell, Jose Ignacio LOPEZ Ruiz. He admitted, among other things, firing the rockets into the FAG base at Los Cipresales on March 7.

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- March 13 - Four fires, apparently started by incendiary bombs, did extensive damage estimated at Q40,000 at customs installations in the capital. Hit were the storerooms of Gerona, those of the Air Express and 2 sections of the central customs house. A number of firemen were injured. Press blames terrorists.
- 13 - Four persons suspected of belonging to FAR arrested in capital. They were identified as Danilo MARTINEZ Casteñada, Mario Lucas SAM Godoy, Jose David YOC Gomez and Roberto FRANCO Velasquez.
- 14 - State of Alert prolonged for 30 days by Decree 629.
- 14 - Miguel Angel Vasquez Pereira, son of newspaper writer Miguel Angel Vasquez, shot down in front of his father's zone 1 house by unknown men. Press reports he had been threatened.
- 14 - Bomb exploded at Quezaltenango home of Venancio Botran, member of Botran liquor family. Damage slight.
- 14 - Five bodies of unidentified persons found shot on road to Antigua, Dept. of Guatemala.

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